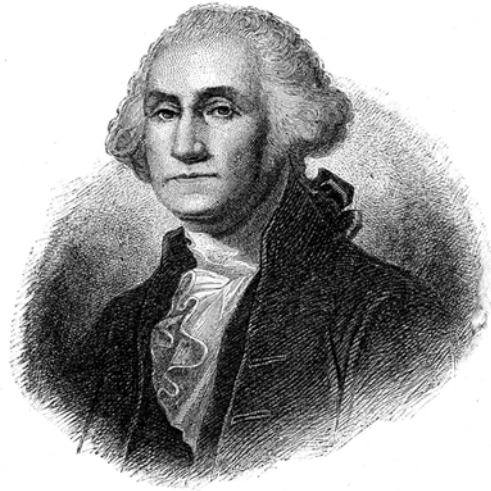


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George Washington: A Founding Father of the United States

George Washington is often hailed as one of the most prominent and influential figures in American history. But what makes him a Founding Father of the United States? Let's delve into the life and contributions of this remarkable figure who played a pivotal role in shaping the nation we know today.

George Washington's Early Life

George Washington was born on February 22, 1732, in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He grew up on a plantation with his family and received a basic education. However, his life would soon take a different turn when he inherited Mount Vernon, a large estate, from his older half-brother Lawrence.

Military Service

One of the first significant steps towards becoming a Founding Father was Washington's involvement in the French and Indian War (1754-1763). He served as a colonel in the Virginia militia and gained valuable military experience during this conflict. His leadership and courage on the battlefield would later become crucial during the American Revolution.

The American Revolution

Perhaps one of the most defining moments in George Washington's life was his role as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolution (1775-1783). When the 13 American colonies decided to break away from British rule and fight for independence, they turned to Washington for leadership.

Under his command, the Continental Army faced numerous challenges, including harsh winters at Valley Forge and a lack of resources. Yet, Washington's determination, strategic acumen, and unwavering commitment to the cause helped turn the tide of the war. The ultimate victory at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781 led to the Treaty of Paris in 1783, officially recognizing the United States' independence from Britain.



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Contribution to the Constitution

After the American Revolution, George Washington became a key figure in the development of the United States' government. He presided over the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787, where delegates from various states came together to draft the United States Constitution. Washington's presence lent credibility to the proceedings, and his leadership was instrumental in guiding the convention to a successful conclusion.

The First President

In 1789, George Washington became the first President of the United States. He was unanimously elected and served two terms from 1789 to 1797. As the nation's first president, Washington set many important precedents, including the peaceful transition of power and the establishment of a cabinet system. His leadership during these formative years helped solidify the principles of the new republic.

Washington's Legacy

George Washington's contributions to the United States extended far beyond his lifetime. His decision to voluntarily step down after two terms as president set a precedent for future leaders. His Farewell Address in 1796 emphasized the importance of national unity and warned against political factionalism.

George Washington passed away on December 14, 1799, at Mount Vernon. He left behind a legacy of leadership, selflessness, and dedication to the nation's ideals. His name is forever associated with the Founding Fathers of the United States, as he played a crucial role in the country's early development.

